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NONFERROUS METAL ENTERPRISES REPORT PROGRESS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended list of sources.]

## COOPER ENTERPRISES REPORT GAIN; LAG IN WINTER PREPARATIONS

The converter division of the Alaverdi Copper-Smelting Plant, Armenian SSR, has been consistently meeting its productions plans for smelting blister copper ever since 1945.(1) The plant's production of blister copper in 1950 has increased 4.2 percent over the same period of 1949 and output of pure copper has increased 11.5 percent. Production costs have decreased 6 percent this year as compared with the planned 5.4 percent.(2) The converter division fulfilled the 7-month 1950 plan 110.6 percent and on 23 August, completed the August plan.

The quartz and lime quarries were among the leaders in the plant competition for August. The wire bar shop fulfilled the August plan 107.1 percent on 25 August and considerably increased production quality during that month.(1) The water-jacket furnaces fulfilled the 7-month plan 105 percent.(2)

In comparison with 1949, this year's increase in labor productivity at the plant amounts to 109 percent.(1) Alaverdi plant workers have cut the length of the smelting operation from 21 hours to 10 hours. This success was achieved by a program of technical training of the senior and assistant smelters. In addition, some of the workers were given individual training by foremen. The work improved considerably after the basic personnel had been given this training. Now each worker knows his duties and works at them independently. Another factor was the increase in the volume of air for oxidation. The oxidation process now lasts 1.5-2.5 hours instead of the former 4-5 hours. As a result of these and other improvements, the anode division fulfilled the 6-month plan 194 percent and is operating at a highly productive level in the third quarter.(3)

The Shamlug Copper Mines, near Alaverdi, are lagging in winter preparations. The directors have done nothing about repairing the road and bridge over which fuel is carried from Akhtala Station. Living quarters have not been repaired in the last 2 or 3 years.(2)

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The Balkhash Copper-Smelting Plant, Karaganda Oblast, Kazakh SSR, fulfilled the 9-month plan for smelting blister copper 6 days ahead of schedule, but its winter preparations are lagging behind schedule. The plant's directors have not taken the steps necessary to ensure complete readiness of railroad facilities for winter operation. Only one third of the planned volume of work has been completed. Last year, the poor work of the plant's railroad transport system resulted in continual interruptions in the transport of Kounrad ores and in idleness of the Kounrad Mine's excavators and of equipment of the concentration plant. Capital and current repairs of railroad tracks, dumpcars, and open-top cars are unnecessarily slow this year. Aznacheyev, chief of railroad transport, and Burdakov, chief engineer of the plant, have decided to extend the time limit on completion of repairs of dump and open-top cars until 31 December, or just at the height of the winter season.

Only 19 of the 82 measures planned for winter preparation of the crushing and transport shop have been completed. The shop has been faced for a long time with the necessity of rebuilding and insulating the bunkers at the main crusher. The plant directors drew up plans for this work to be done by "Soyuzteplotstroy" (All-Union Planning, Assembly, and Construction Trust of Heat Engineering; director, Stepanov). Because of the poor organization of assembly work in this project, the schedule is not being met and the work is at a standstill.

Another matter which has been planned for several years is the rebuilding of and installation of glass in the roof of the metallurgical shop, but nothing is being done about it. The buildings which house the air blower and the machine shops are not at all ready for winter operation. The necessary reserves of fluxes, refractory clay, and other production materials have not been accumulated.

The schedule of preparations at the Kounrad Mine is not being adhered to. The poor condition of the quarry and station railroad tracks has resulted in a sizeable accumulation of ore and rock waiting to be transported. Track repair is proceeding extremely slowly.(4)

#### POLYMETALLIC COMBINE LAGS; ZINC PLANT BEATS SCHEDULE

The concentration plants of the Leninogorsk Polymetallic Combine, Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, are lagging. The present level of ore processing and recovery of metal in concentrates is far below the requirements placed before the concentration workers. Technological processes need modernizing and new methods for increasing equipment productivity must be found.

This task had been given to a brigade of scientific workers, headed by Dubrov, Candidate in Technical Sciences, who arrived in Leninogorsk in spring 1950. The crushing of ore in the concentrating plants is the bottleneck which is holding back an increase in the quantitative and qualitative indexes for all stages of production in the plants. The brigade decided to introduce improvements in the work of the fine-crushing equipment at Plant No 3, and drew up a plan of organizational and technical measures which was then approved by the combine's directors.

However, Yegurnov, director of the concentration plants, and Kulimin, chief engineer of these plants, decided to reject any improvements made by the brigade. The plants had been operating on out-dated, limited production norms, and the plan proposed by the scientists would have destroyed the old order of things. In direct contradiction to the brigade's plan, Yegurnov and Kulimin drew up their own plan, which provided for measures of only secondary, not major, importance, and further began to engage in direct sabotage of the measures put into effect by the brigade. For example, from the very first day of the innovations, the necessary quantity of ore was lacking at the mill in third plant where experimental

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work was being undertaken. Thus, the experimental work was completely interrupted for the second half of May, all of June, and on into July. The chief engineer gave orders to the ore classifiers to withhold ore from the test section and deliver it instead to all other sections.

Despite these obstacles, the brigade was able to uncover serious technological errors at the plant and to develop and put into effect valuable improvements. As a result, productivity of equipment increased 20 percent and the technological processes were improved. The old norms for Plant No 3 were reversed.

At present, Yegurnov and Kulimin are continuing to make all efforts to undermine these improvements. Bereza, chief engineer of the Polymetallic Combine, appointed a special commission to test the results of the experimental work, but Kulimin is at the head of this commission. The commission issued a statement, after one day's observation, which testifies that there have been no gains in the third sector over the other sectors. The facts show the opposite to be true. During the testing period from 17 to 31 July, the third plant achieved higher indexes in processing ore than had ever been achieved at the plant. The volume of processed ore in this plant far exceeded that of the other sections.

The brigade then left Leninogorsk, and the measures devised by it and put into practice are far from complete. The two directors have still one other way of undermining the good work. They have begun to deliver to the fine-crushing installations ore of considerably greater size than the norm allows, with the result that the crushing operation takes considerably more time and the achievements of the technologists in increasing the installation's productivity would appear to be unfounded in fact.

This conservatism on the part of the concentration plants' directors is the chief reason for the lag of these plants. In August, they did not meet the plan for processing the ore and metal recovery. In the first half of 1950, more than 1,000 cases of infraction of technological requirements were noted, and at present, the number of such cases is increasing each day. In the last 2 months, the total idleness of equipment in these plants constituted almost 300 hours.

Bogatov, director of the Polymetallic Combine, and Bereza, its chief engineer, as well as the Leninogorsk City Party Committee, should also be considered at fault in allowing such conditions to prevail.(5)

The Ust'-Kamenogorsk Zinc Plant, also in Vostochno-Kazakhstan Oblast, has completed ahead of schedule the third quarter plan for metal output.(6)

#### KIRGIZ COMBINE SHOWS INCREASE

In August, the Mining and Metallurgical Combine imeni Frunze, Kirgiz SSR, exceeded the plan for mine advancing 51 percent, for smelting metal by 21 percent, and for production of concentrates by 37 percent. Labor productivity among the miners is 28 percent higher than it was in 1949. Use of loading machines and scraper winches has considerably eased the work of the miners. There are a number of grave shortcomings, however, in the operation of Mine No 1. The mine does not have sufficient drill hammers and spare parts for them, with the result that the drillers are often idle. The combine's machine shop is not working satisfactorily. There are delays in the repair of drills and the shop does not meet the demand for output of spare machine parts. In the mine, not all the operating rooms and drifts have been lighted and many workers are operating without individual lights. There is also a shortage of supplies for workers' everyday living needs in the stores.(7)

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**CHROMITE PLAN MET**

The Donskoye Chromite Mine Administration has completed the 9-month plan for mining and shipping ore and for development work. The leading mine is "Ob'yedinenny" No 1.(8)

**"KRASNYY VYBORZHETS" PLANT MODERNIZES**

The "Krasnyy vyborzhets" Plant, Leningrad, until recently produced pipe on drawing mills, a time-consuming process. For example, 14 x 16-millimeter-diameter pipe necessitated eight drawings. The Kol'chugino Plant imeni Ordzhonikidze, Vladimir Oblast, on the other hand, uses the more productive and efficient method of rolling pipe on cold-rolling mills. The "Krasnyy vyborzhets" Plant also had pipe-rolling mills, but because they had been installed just before the war, they were not put to use at that time. A group of Kol'chugino workers recently came to Leningrad and taught the "Krasnyy vyborzhets" workers the most advanced methods of cold-rolling pipe. The production of pipe on rolling mills has helped the pipe-drawing shop to increase the production of condenser pipe 2½ times in comparison with 1949. At the same time, the yield of finished production increased 6 percent. In 5 months, the shop saved more than 100,000 rubles' worth of an expensive alloy.(9)

The "Krasnyy vyborzhets" Plant is one of the enterprises meeting orders for construction of the Volga power projects. The plant has already shipped the first consignment of metal to the "Elektrosila" and "Elektroapparat" plants which are building equipment for the Kuybyshev and Stalingrad power stations.(10)

**METAL SAVED IN NEW HEATING UNIT**

Until recently, heating units for heating buildings were made with an expensive nonferrous metal. A group of engineers at the Kazan' Machine Plant, Tatar ASSR, of the Ministry of Construction Materials Industry developed the design and methods of production of heating units of various sizes made from hard alloys. The group was directed by Stranev, senior technologist. Now, 30 percent less metal is used for each unit. The heat output of the new-type units is 25 percent higher than in the old-type units. The plant has successfully started production of the new-type units and has obtained an order for them for use in high buildings now under construction in Moscow.(11)

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